

REMARKS

By virtue of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-27, and 29-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 15, 18, 21, and 26 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 23, 25, and 28 have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 33-42 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 21-24, 27, 28, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Published Patent Application 2002/0190905 A1 (“Flint”). The Examiner objected to claims 3, 4, 6-19, 25, 26, and 29-31 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. The applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Moreover, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 21-24, 27, 28, and 32, but in an effort to expedite this application to allowance have amended the claims. In particular, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the recitations of allowed claim 3, and claim 21 was amended to incorporate the recitations of allowed claim 25. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1 and 25 are presently in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 24, 27, 28, and 32 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 21 and, at least by virtue of this dependency, are deemed allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4, 6-22, 24, and 26-32 are presently in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

No claim related fees are believed to be due with this response. In the event any such fees are due, including fees for extension of time not otherwise provided, please consider this a request for such extension of time and debit Deposit Account 08-2623.

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Brian Kinnear, Reg. No. 43,717
Attorney for Applicant
HOLLAND & HART LLP
555 17th Street, Suite 3200
Denver, Colorado 80201
Telephone: (303) 295-8170
Facsimile: (303) 295-8261

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